

Background Dossier Three

Ben Franklin, Community Leader and Diplomat



This fire mark identified homes with Franklin's fire insurance

Here are some of Mr. Franklin's community contributions:

- Created the first lending library
- Organized the first volunteer fire department
- Opened the first post office
- Saw a need for Fire Insurance, and thus established the first fire insurance company
- Founded the Junto, a club "for mutual improvement"
- Helped to get the streets of Philadelphia paved and cleaned
- Urged that an army be formed to protect the city
- Formed the American Philosophical Society
- Initiated reform of the Philadelphia Police Department
- Member of the Pennsylvania Assembly
- Defended Native Americans in Philadelphia from the Paxton Boys
- Witness in Parliament on the Stamp Act issue
- Established the Pennsylvania Hospital, the first public hospital in the colonies
- Established the Philadelphia Academy and Charitable School which eventually became the University of Pennsylvania
- Gathered intelligence for the Committee of Secret Correspondence
- Witness in Parliament on the Stamp Act issue
- Delegate to the 2nd Continental Congress
- Served on the committee of 5 to draft the Declaration of Independence
- Negotiated peace treaty with England in 1783
- Delegate to the Constitutional Convention
- President of the Pennsylvania Abolitionist Society